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William H. Jackson Dead at 70; Former C.I.A. Deputy Director

Also a Senior Partner and
Managing Director of Law
and Investment Firms

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Special to The New York Times

TUCSON, Ariz., Sept. 23—William H. Jackson, former deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency, died today after a long illness. He was 70 years old.

Mr. Jackson married twice, in 1929 Elizabeth Lyman and in 1951 Mary Lee Pitcairn. Both marriages ended in divorce.

He is survived by two sons of the first marriage, William H. and Richard Lee, and two sons of the second marriage, Bruce P. and Howell E., and four grandchildren.

A funeral service will be held in Nashville, on Friday or Saturday.

Study Began in Early 50's

The problem of setting up a psychological-warfare organization in a democracy was the task put before William Harding Jackson.

In the early nineteen-fifties, he headed a committee appointed by President Eisenhower to study how to mount psychological warfare to give it "a dynamic thrust in the cold war."

In his report, Mr. Jackson stated that "psychological strategy" does not exist as an independent medium. He recommended that the President abolish the Psychological Strategy Board, which in 1953 had been floundering for two years.

The Jackson committee asked, instead, that the President set up an "operations coordinating board" within the National Security Council.

The mission of this new unit would have been to plan detailed actions for carrying on not mere propaganda or psychological warfare but definitive national-security policies.

In effect, the Jackson report stated that the nation should refrain from propaganda stunts, contrived ideas unrelated to stated policy, in the ideological warfare against the Soviet Union. The report was accepted and the operations board was formed.



The New York Times

William H. Jackson

Behind this major effort was a long career in intelligence work that made Mr. Jackson the ideal man to be the committee's chairman. His World War II service was chiefly in various phases of intelligence, with a brief period in the Office of Strategic Services.

Joined Army as Captain

He entered the Army as a captain in February, 1942, and was assigned to the Army Air Force Intelligence School at Harrisburg, Pa. This was followed by antisubmarine service and assignment to intelligence units.

In January, 1944, Mr. Jackson went to London to join the intelligence section of American Military Headquarters, serving as chief of intelligence to Gen. Jacob L. Devers and, later, as deputy chief of intelligence for Gen. Omar Bradley. He was discharged from the Army in August, 1945, as a colonel.

Upon his return, he rejoined his law firm, Carter, Ledyard & Milburn, where he had become a senior partner, but left two years later, because, as he put it:

"My prewar work wasn't satisfying any more. A great many civilian soldiers felt the same way I did."

He became a partner in the investment firm of John Hay Whitney and also its managing

director. Before long, however, he was back in intelligence work.

In 1949, he was named to the National Security Council to serve on a committee with Allen W. Dulles and Mathias K. Corra to investigate the intelligence service of the United States.

Appointed Deputy Director

The following August he was

named deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency, with Lieut. Gen. Walter B. Smith.

In January, 1956, President Eisenhower named Mr. Jackson as a special assistant, succeeding Nelson A. Rockefeller. His job was "to assist in the coordination and timing of the execution of foreign policies involving more than one department or agency."

Some months later, he was named special assistant to the President for national security affairs. He recommended to the President that Richard M. Nixon, then the Vice President, be made chairman of the Operations Coordinating Board, a unit whose job it was to see that Presidential decisions, recommended by the Security Council, were closely and quickly followed.

While Mr. Eisenhower was sympathetic to the idea, John Foster Dulles, the Secretary of State, was opposed, and the proposal was rejected.

Mr. Jackson was born in Nashville on March 25, 1901, the son of William Harding Jackson and the former Anne Davis Richardson. The family had been farmers for five generations. A grandfather, a West Point graduate, was a Civil War veteran.

The youth was graduated from St. Mark's School, Southborough, Mass., in 1920. He received a B.A. from Princeton in 1924 and an LL.B. from Harvard Law School in 1928.

Admitted to Bar in 1932

He joined the law firm of Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft in 1928 and moved to Carter, Ledyard & Milburn in 1930. He was admitted to the bar in New York in 1932 and two years later became a partner of Carter, Ledyard.

Mr. Jackson was a trustee of the Millbrook School for Boys and of St. Mark's. He also was a director of the Spencer-Chemical Company, the Great Northern Paper Company and the Bankers Trust Company.